

Revelation Lesson 104 Another Mighty Angel

Revelation 10:1-3 And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow *was* upon his head, and his face *was* as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: 2 And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and *his* left *foot* on the earth, 3 And cried with a loud voice, as *when* a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.

Previously, we overviewed the 3rd and final look at the terrible Demonic army that will be unleashed and will slay 1/3 of the population. Tonight we will take a look at another mighty angel whom some claim is none other than Jesus Christ our Lord....

Before we proceed, please note that this chapter begins a parenthetical look at this point in Revelation that will last from Chapter 10:1 – 11:14. This parenthetical observation is given to John just before the end of the 6th Trumpet is announced and prior to the 7th Trumpet being sounded. This section is to the trumpet judgments what chapter 7 was to the Seal Judgments: a description of conditions that existed during the particular period of time covered by the preceding judgments.

With that noted we see that we are very close to the mid-point of the Tribulation period.

And I saw another mighty angel – Now a large debate has been going on seemingly since John wrote Revelation in regards to the identity of this angel. The late Oliver B. Greene said: “Angels are special creations of God, but this Mighty Angel is not one of the created beings. He is the Lord Jesus Himself.” Previously he states the following: “In Revelation Jesus is referred to as the Lamb, as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah and also as The Warrior. Why should he not be referred to as a “Mighty Angel?” Jesus can take whatever form he desires, in order to perform any specific mission having to do with completion of God’s program. I believe the angels mentioned in Revelation 7:2, 8:13 and 10:1 are one and the same – the Lord Jesus Christ.”

As much as I respect and there is much I agree with Oliver B. on, but here as in Revelation 7:2 and 8:13 I must respectfully disagree with him. I want to bring in J. Vernon McGee’s thoughts here: “Godet, Vincent, Pettingill, DeHaan, Ironside, Walter Scott, and William Kelly all identify the strong angel as Christ. Newell and others consider him to be just an angel of great power and authority, but not Christ. Dr. John Walvoord takes this viewpoint, and Vernon McGee takes it also. If you go with either crowd, you will be in good company. In the first group are some men I have great respect for and whom I love in the Lord. I have personally known three of those men, and they were my dear friends. If you follow them, it will be all right, and you will be in good company; but if you want to be right, you want to come along with me on this!

There is ample evidence to show that this angel is only a mighty angel. Christ does not appear in Revelation as an angel. It is true that in the Old Testament the preincarnate Christ was seen as *the* Angel of the Lord. But after He took upon Himself our humanity, after He died and rose again and received a glorified body, we now see Him in the place of great power and glory yonder at God’s right hand. We never see Him as an angel again. When He was here in His humanity, He was not an angel—He was a man. Therefore, He is revealed in the Book of Revelation as the glorified Christ, as the postincarnate Christ. He is exalted to the nth degree. It is well to keep before us constantly that this book is the unveiling of Jesus Christ. New glories of His person and of His power and performance are unfolding in each chapter. He is now the One judging a Christ-rejecting earth.

[McGee mentions this and I cannot help but concur that where the text says:]“another mighty angel.” Another means that it is another of the same kind. The other [mighty] angel to whom we were introduced was back in Rev. 5:2. There is no argument there; it is not Christ. It is thethe way in which he is [clothed] which has led to identify him as Christ. Though all angels are the servants of

Christ, in this final book of the Bible, this is evidently the special envoy of Christ, bearing all the credentials of His exalted position. He comes down out of heaven from the presence of Christ, the One who is in the midst of the throne.

come down from heaven, - John does not say here that this is a vision. It thus seems (coupled with statements later in regards to the angel standing upon the sea and the earth) that John has been transported to Earth (in the future mind you) to witness and experience this.

clothed with a cloud: - J. Vernon McGee says: “This is his uniform as a special envoy from Christ. The clouds of glory are associated with the second coming of Christ, but the angel described here is not coming in clouds of glory, but he is clothed with a cloud. Furthermore, this is not the second coming of Christ to the earth to establish His Kingdom; rather, this angel makes the announcement that He is coming soon. Angels, you recall, announced His first coming, and they will announce His second coming to the earth.”

and a rainbow was upon his head, - This is the cap for his uniform and is a reminder of God's covenant with man. Although the judgments have come, thick and fast, weird and wild—it begs language to describe them—this rainbow indicates that God will not send a flood to destroy man again.

and his face was as it were the sun, - This is his badge of identification. This is the signature of the glorified Christ (see Rev. 1:16). It does not follow that this one must therefore be the Son of God. Moses' face shone after he had been in the presence of God (see Exo. 34:29). This angel's face is shining because he has come out from the presence of Christ. You will recall that the raiment of the angels at the resurrection of Christ also shone (see Luke 24:4). The angel of Rev. 18:1 is a light giver, as the sun and moon, yet no one asserts that he is Christ. Also, I take it that this angel in chapter 10 is not Christ, but he is what it says: an angel, another great, mighty angel.

and his feet as pillars of fire: - This is still part of his uniform. He has come to make a special and solemn announcement of coming judgment. All of these features of identification are his credentials and connect him to the person of Christ as His special envoy. The Lord Jesus is running everything at this particular point. He is the Judge of all the earth.

And he had in his hand – The angel held in his hand. Which hand is not specified.

a little book open: - We will cover more about the book in an upcoming study in Lesson 107.

and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, - This angel now claims the earth and the sea for the Lord Jesus Christ. When Columbus landed on an island here in the Western Hemisphere, he got off the ship and went to the shore and planted the flag of Spain, claiming the island in the name of the king and queen of the country that had sent him out. That method has been used from time to time. When men came to unoccupied territory, they claimed it.

And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: - The angel yelled with a loud voice. This yelling sounded as when a lion roars. If we seek to make any symbolic connections, we might draw a conclusion from Jesus being the “lion of the Tribe of Judah” in Revelation 5:5 so we can say that this angel sounds with the authority of Christ.

and when he had cried, - when he had yelled.

seven thunders uttered their voices. - Now this will be our topic next week, the Mysteries of the Seven Thunders. Find out what this means and more when we study Lesson 105.